

What is claimed is:

- 1           1.       A method of performing wireless communications, comprising:  
2                   communicating bearer traffic for a packet-switched communications  
3 session between a mobile station and a first base station associated with a first type of  
4 wireless system;  
5                   determining if handoff is required from the first base station to a second  
6 base station associated with a second, different type of wireless system; and  
7                   exchanging messages between the first and second base stations to  
8 perform the handoff in response to determining that the handoff is required.
- 1           2.       The method of claim 1, further comprising initiating the handoff by one of  
2 the first and second base stations.
- 1           3.       The method of claim 1, wherein the first base station comprises an IS-  
2 2000 base station, and wherein communicating the bearer traffic comprises  
3 communicating the bearer traffic between the mobile station and the IS-2000 base station.
- 1           4.       The method of claim 3, wherein determining if handoff is required from  
2 the first base station to the second base station comprises determining if handoff is  
3 required from the IS-2000 base station to a 1xEV access network.
- 1           5.       The method of claim 3, wherein determining if handoff is required from  
2 the first base station to the second base station comprises determining if handoff is  
3 required from the IS-2000 base station to a High Data Rate (HDR) access network.
- 1           6.       The method of claim 1, wherein the first base station comprises a High  
2 Data Rate access network, and wherein communicating the bearer traffic comprises  
3 communicating the bearer traffic between the mobile station and the High Data Rate  
4 access network.

1           7.     The method of claim 6, wherein determining if handoff is required from  
2     the first base station to the second base station comprises determining if handoff is  
3     required from the High Data Rate access network to an IS-2000 base station.

1           8.     The method of claim 1, wherein the first base station comprises a 1xEV  
2     access network, and wherein communicating the bearer traffic comprises communicating  
3     the bearer traffic between the mobile station and the 1xEV access network.

1           9.     The method of claim 8, wherein determining if handoff is required from  
2     the first base station to the second base station comprises determining if handoff is  
3     required from the 1xEV access network to an IS-2000 base station.

1           10.    The method of claim 1, wherein exchanging the messages comprises  
2     exchanging a message indicating that a handoff is required.

1           11.    The method of claim 1, wherein exchanging the messages comprises  
2     sending a message from the first base station to the second base station indicating that a  
3     handoff is required.

1           12.    The method of claim 11, wherein exchanging the messages further  
2     comprises sending another message from the second base station to the first base station  
3     to initiate a handoff procedure.

1           13.    The method of claim 12, wherein exchanging the messages further  
2     comprises sending a further message from the first base station to the second base station  
3     to indicate that the mobile station has been directed to hand off to the second base station.

1           14.    The method of claim 1, wherein exchanging the messages comprises  
2     exchanging the messages over a link between the first base station and the second base  
3     station.

1           15.    The method of claim 1, wherein performing the handoff comprises  
2 performing a hard handoff between the first base station and the second base station.

1           16.    An apparatus associated with a first base station system that performs  
2 wireless communications according to a first protocol, the apparatus comprising:  
3                   an interface to a second base station system that performs wireless  
4 communications according to a second, different protocol; and  
5                   a controller adapted to communicate bearer traffic for a packet-switched  
6 communications session with a mobile station,  
7                   the controller adapted to further exchange messaging with the second base  
8 station system through the interface to perform a handoff of the packet-switched  
9 communications session from the first base station system to the second base station  
10 system.

1           17.    The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the controller is adapted to perform  
2 the handoff by performing a hard handoff.

1           18.    The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the controller is adapted to  
2 communicate bearer traffic according to IS-2000 format with the mobile station.

1           19.    The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the second base station system  
2 comprises a High Data Rate base station, and wherein the controller is adapted to  
3 exchange the messaging with the High Data Rate base station.

1           20.    The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the second base station system  
2 comprises a 1xEV base station, and wherein the controller is adapted to exchange the  
3 messaging with the 1xEV base station.

1           21.    The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the controller is adapted to exchange  
2 the messaging by sending a message indicating that a handoff is required.

1           22.    The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the controller is adapted to exchange  
2 the messaging by receiving a message initiating the handoff procedure.

1           23.    The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the controller is adapted to send a  
2 further message from the first base station system to the second base station system to  
3 indicate that the mobile station has been directed to hand off to the second base station  
4 system.

1           24.    An article comprising at least one storage medium containing instructions  
2 that when executed cause a first base station system to:  
3               exchange signaling according to a first protocol with a mobile station to  
4 establish a packet-switched communications session between the mobile station and  
5 another endpoint;  
6               determine if a handoff is required to a second base station system that  
7 performs wireless communications according to a second, different protocol; and  
8               exchange messaging with the second base station system through a link  
9 between the first and second base station systems to perform the handoff.

1           25.    The article of claim 24, wherein the first base station comprises an IS-  
2 2000 base station, and wherein the instructions when executed cause the first base station  
3 system to exchange IS-2000 signaling with the mobile station.

1           26.    The article of claim 25, wherein the instructions when executed cause the  
2 first base station system to determine if handoff is required by determining if handoff is  
3 required from the IS-2000 base station to one of a 1xEV access network and a High Data  
4 Rate (HDR) access network.

1           27.    The article of claim 24, wherein the first base station comprises one of a  
2 High Data Rate (HDR) access network and a 1xEV access network, and wherein the  
3 instructions when executed cause the first base station system to exchange one of High  
4 Data Rate (HDR) signaling and 1xEV signaling with the mobile station.

1           28.    The article of claim 27, wherein the instructions when executed cause the  
2 first base station system to determine if handoff is required by determining if handoff is  
3 required from the one of a High Data Rate (HDR) access network and 1xEV access  
4 network to a IS-2000 base station.

1           29.    The article of claim 24, wherein the instructions when executed cause the  
2 first base station system to exchange the messaging by sending a message indicating that  
3 a handoff is required.